ᐄᓂᕓᑏᐋᔨᔫᒡ ᓃᐦᒋᒦᐅᐋᔨᔫᒡ ᐁ ᓇᑎᒫᑐᑖᐤ (ᐄᔨᔫ ᐊᔅᒌ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐄᓅ/ᐄᔨᔫ ᒋᖓᐅᒋᒫᐤ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

G. C. C. E. I.
40th Anniversary
1974 - 2014

C. N. G.
G. N. C.
est. 1978

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Projet de parc éolien Saint-Cyprien à Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville
**6211-24-075**

June 1, 2015

By email: eolien-saint-cyprien@bape.gouv.qc.ca

Bureau d'audience publiques sur l'environnement

RE: Projet de parc éolien Saint-Cyprien à Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Cree in regards to the above referenced wind energy project. I have familiarized myself with the Project and I am aware that the project promoter, Kahnawake Sustainable Energies, has submitted this project on behalf of the Mohawks of Kahnawake.

As First Nations people, and the Cree people in particular, we have witnessed the exploitation of our land for energy development. While the Cree and the governments of Quebec and Canada are signatory to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975), we take note that Hydro Quebec's energy projects have largely focused on projects within our Territory. In 2009, we were encouraged by Hydro Quebec's undertaking, under decree from the Quebec government, to purchase 250 Mw of wind generated electricity from Aboriginal suppliers in Quebec, and we were supportive of the awarding of a 24 Mw contract to Kahnawake Sustainable Energies in that call for tenders.

We would have preferred to see more Aboriginal contracts awarded that would have given Aboriginal communities some sizeable measure of economic benefits to meet the requirements of Quebec's energy policy (while doing so in such an environmentally acceptable way). Notwithstanding that, we support our brothers and sisters from the Mohawks of Kahnawake, acting through Kahnawake Sustainable Energies, in their application for authorization for their Saint-Cyprien wind energy project to proceed and we do so for the following reasons:

- Quebec's energy policy should benefit Aboriginal People and this project will contribute significantly to the economy of the Mohawks of Kahnawake.
- We support a diversification of Quebec's energy policy, particularly for the generation of electricity. Meeting Quebec's new electricity supply requirements should not be based solely on Hydro projects in the north (in Cree Territory).
- We strongly believe that wind generated electricity is a very environmentally friendly method of producing energy and we further accept that, with the Saint-Cyprien wind energy project, the Mohawks of Kahnawake are contributing positively to their environmental responsibilities as shared caretakers of this land.
- While the promoter has voluntarily reduced the capacity to 18.8 Mw, this project's success has wide import for Aboriginal people, the wind industry in Quebec and the fight against climate change.

Sincerely,

**Matthew Coon Come**
**Grand Chief**

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Whapmagoostui ᐙᐱᒫᑯᔥᑐᐃ Chisasibi ᒋᓵᓰᐲ Wemindji ᐐᒥᓂᒌ Eastmain ᐄᔅᒣᐃᓐ Waskaganish ᐙᔅᑳᐦᐃᑲᓂᔥ Nemasko ᓀᒥᔅᑳᐤ Waswanipi ᐙᔅᐙᓂᐲ Ouje-Bougoumou ᐅᒋᐳᑯᒧ Mistissini ᒥᔅᑎᓯᓂ Washaw Sibi ᐙᔓ ᓰᐲ